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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Monday, September 7, 1936

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "THE ABC'S OF THE F&DA." From the Federal Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

--ooOoo--

Friends, we're going to school today, with our F&DA correspondent as teacher.

"Once a teacher always a teacher," she writes. "As soon as I hear the school bells ringing on a clear September morning, I feel the urge to teach little boys and girls that c-a-t spells 'cat' and two and two make four."

Well, I can understand her mood. The month of September reminds us all that vacation is over, that it's time to settle down and improve our minds or somebody else's. We can improve our own minds today by learning the ABC's of the Federal Food and Drug Administration. Here are some pertinent questions, homemakers -- and our correspondent has obligingly added the answers.

Question Number One: What is the purpose of the Food and Drug Administration?

Answer: The Food and Drug Administration was created by Congress for the specific purpose of administering a group of acts, designed primarily to promote purity and truthful labeling in certain commodities essential to the public health, and to the economic welfare of the Nation.

That's a good start, but we'll certainly have to know more about this "group of acts" before we can go any farther. So to the next question: What are the six acts administered by the Food and Drug Administration?

Answer: The Food and Drugs Act, the Insecticide Act, the Import Milk Act, the Tea Act, the Caustic Poison Act, and the Naval Stores Act.

Now all these we've mentioned before -- but how many of us can recall just how they affect our daily living? Here's how: The Food and Drugs Act prohibits commerce in adulterated or misbranded manufactured or natural foods, beverages, stock foods, remedies, drugs, and medicines.

The Insecticide Act protects farmers, fruit growers, market growers, stock and poultry raisers, householders, and others from buying and using insecticides and fungicides that fall below the strength claimed for them, that will not accomplish the results promised, or that are injurious to plants.

The Import Milk Act prohibits the entry into the United States of milk and cream that have not been produced under prescribed sanitary conditions, from healthy herds, or that do not meet certain specified standards at the time of entry.

The Tea Act provides for the examination of all tea offered for entry into

the United States, and the admission of only such tea as meets the standard of quality, purity, and fitness for consumption set by the United States Government.

The Caustic Poison Act, by requiring certain labeling, safeguards your household against accidental injury from ammonia, lye, carbolic acid, and other dangerous substances commonly used in the home.

The Naval Stores Act establishes standards and standard grades for "naval stores," that is, rosin and turpentine . . . . "As a matter of fact," says your correspondent, "the Naval Stores Act does more than establish standards for naval stores. It also affords protection to the people by prohibiting misgrading, mislabeling and fraud in the sale of these articles."

Next question: Where are the headquarters of the Food and Drug Administration?

That's an easy one. The answer is Washington, D. C. And the Washington staff, by the way, includes about 224 people, "not many," comments our official reporter, "when you remember the great responsibilities of these officials."

Next question: Where are the branch stations of the Food and Drug Administration?

The answer: In sixteen of the leading commercial cities. The Eastern District includes Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, New York, and Philadelphia. The Central District -- Chicago, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New Orleans, and St. Louis. The Western District -- Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Next question: What important amendment was made to the Food and Drugs Act in 1934?

Answer: The Seafood Amendment.

Question: Who asked for it?

Answer: The shrimp-packers.

Question: How does the Seafood Amendment affect the housewife?

Answer: The Seafood Amendment authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to grant the request of any packer of sea food for the services of inspectors to examine and inspect all premises, equipment, methods, materials, containers and labels used by the packer in the production of sea food. Sea foods that conform to the requirements of the amendment are marked, so that the housewife will know she is getting Government-inspected products.

Question: Is this sea food inspection service compulsory?

Answer: It is not. The inspection is entirely voluntary on the part of the packer.

Question: Which one of the sea food industries has taken advantage of the sea food inspection service?

Answer: The shrimp-packing industry. Most of the shrimp now canned is packed under Government supervision.

Question: What is the label the consumer will find on Government-inspected shrimp?

Answer: "Production Supervised by the U. S. Food and Drug Administration."

No more questions today. Next Monday we shall learn about tomatoes and tomato juice.